

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04674 220131Z

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QUOTE

MUNICH 1891

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, GW

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF REVISED FORMAT NIV

REF: STATE 268221

A) WE FIND THE REVISED FORMAT NIV TO REPRESENT A GREAT
IMPROVEMENT IN VISA ISSUING TECHNIQUES, BUT TO CLAIM THAT IT HAS
HAD A "SIGNIFICANT" EFFECT ON OFFICER WORKLOAD WOULD BE
SOMETHING OF AN EXAGGERATION. ASSUMING, FOR INSTANCE, THAT IT
TAKES FIVE SECONDS TO SIGN A VISA, THE NEW PLATE SAVES ONE
OFFICER MAN-HOUR FOR EACH 720 VISAS ISSUED. IN OCTOBER AND
NOVEMBER WE ISSUED 3519 VISAS. PRESUMABLY, THEREFORE WE
"SAVED" 4.9 OFFICER MAN-HOURS DURING THOSE MONTHS, WHICH
AVERAGES OUT TO ROUGHLY SEVEN MINUTES PER WORKING DAY.
PRECISELY WHAT OTHER TASKS OUR VISA OFFICER MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH
EACH DAY IN THOSE SEVEN MINUTES IS RATHER DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE.

B) WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR OPINION IS NOT THAT ANY VAST
AMOUNTS OF "FREE" TIME HAVE BEEN GAINED, BUT RATHER THAT
AN ELEMENT INVOLVING SHEER DRUDGERY HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 04674 220131Z

WORK OF THE VISA OFFICER. THE PRINCIPAL EFFECT IS ON THE CHAR-

ACTER, AND NOT ON THE EXTENT, OF THE OFFICER'S ROLE. HE HAS MOVED ONE MORE NOTCH AWAY FROM PURE CLERICAL ROUTINE. HE CAN, TO BE SURE, GO ABOUT THE REST OF HIS BUSINESS IN A LESS HARRIED MANNER. HE CAN CONCENTRATE ON CASES AT HAND WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING INTERRUPTED TO SIGN VISAS ALREADY APPROVED. EFFICIENCY IS THEREBY IMPROVED AND MORALE SOMEWHAT ENHANCED. WE DO NOT FEEL, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TECHNIQUE WILL IN ITSELF PROMPT WHOLESALEREENLISTMENTS FOR DUTY ON NIV LINES OR KEEP A SINGLE ADDITIONAL MALE FIDE APPLICANT OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

C) POST HAS ALWAYS USED STRAIGHT LINE PROCESSING OF THE TYPE MENTIONED EXCEPT THAT THE SIGNING OPERATION NATURALLY OCCURRED BETWEEN STEPS 4 AND 5. HAVING DISPENSED WITH THAT ADDITIONAL STEP, VISAED PASSPORTS NOW GET BACK TO APPLICANTS QUICKER THAN WAS HERETOFORE THE CASE. WHAT IS SAVED, OF COURSE IS NOT ONLY THE OFFICER'S TIME REFERRED TO IN PARA A ABOVE, BUT ALSO FSL TIME PREVIOUSLY SPENT IN ANNOTATING THE VISA AND BRINGING THE PASSPORT BACK TO THE OFFICER A SECOND TIME. IN TERMS OF OVERALL OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, THE LATTER SAVING MAY BE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE FORMER.

D) SIGNATURE AUTOMATION HAS NEITHER IMPROVED NOR DIMINISHED OFFICER CONTROL OVER NIV PROCESSING. IN EACH CASE, AS HERETOFORE, THE VISA STAMP IS PLACED IN THE PASSPORT ONLY AFTER THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE OFFICER. THIS STATEMENT CAN BE MADE, OF COURSE, ONLY BECAUSE THE POST HAS NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO DOUBT THE INTEGRITY OF ITS CONSULAR ASSISTANTS AND THIS, AFTER ALL, APPEARS TO BE THE SINE QUA NON WHICH MUST NECESSARILY UNDERLIE ALL CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT WHERE THIS PARTICULAR DEVICE IS TO BE EMPLOYED.

E) THE MAXIMUM UTILITY OF THE REVISED FORMAT WOULD NATURALLY BE GAINED AT A POST WHERE NO HANDWRITTEN ENTRIES HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE VISA STAMP. THE FACT THAT LESS OF A BENEFIT WOULD OCCUR AT POSTS NOT AUTHORIZED TO USE THE "BEARER" SLUG IS OBVIOUS, BUT EVEN A LIMITED BENEFIT IS BETTER THAN NO BENEFIT AT ALL. LOGICALLY, HOWEVER THE SAME FACTORS WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE A POST FROM MEETING THE CRITERIA FOR THE "BEARER" SLUG SHOULD PRESUMABLY DISQUALIFY IT FROM USING THE NEW PLATE IN ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 04674 220131Z

EVENT.

F) THE POST'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE REVISED FORMAT CONTRIBUTES, IN ITS OWN SMALL WAY, TO STREAMLINING THE VISA PROCESS BY ELIMINATING SOME WAITING, WALKING AND ELBOW GREASE. IT IS A WORK-SAVING DEVICE. WE WOULD PREFER TO ACCEPT IT AS SIMPLY THAT AND NOT ATTEMPT TO ASSIGN TO IT THE OTHER METAPHYSICAL QUALITIES WHICH SEEM TO BE SUGGESTED BY SOME OF THE

QUESTIONS POSED. VALDES

UNQUOTE

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